



## Pattern of the Month - October 2014

By Evelyn George

### Fabric Pumpkins

Make pretty fabric pumpkins to decorate your table for Fall --  
They're so easy and quick, you'll want to make several in different sizes!



#### Here's what you'll need:

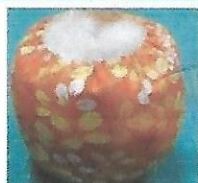
Fat Quarters or larger in Fall colors and prints	Cinnamon sticks, corks, twigs, etc. for stems
Florist's wire or chenille stem for tendril (optional)	Green felt for leaves (optional)
Sturdy thread and needle for gathering fabric	Polyester fiberfill stuffing
Embroidery floss or other strong thread to coordinate with pumpkin fabric	All purpose tacky glue (or glue gun)
Dollmaker's needle or other long needle (about 5")	



**Directions:** Cut a BIAS rectangle twice as long as it is wide. →  
(5" x 10", 6" x 12", 7" x 14", etc. - just remember it *must* be cut on the bias.)



Fold in half right sides together and sew the two short sides together with a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam, backstitching at both ends. Finger press seam open. Thread regular needle with a double thread, knotting ends together. Sew a loose running stitch  $\frac{1}{4}$ " from edge around bottom of cylinder; gather it up tightly and secure with extra stitches. Turn right side out.



In the same way, make running stitch around top edge; don't gather yet, but leave needle attached while you stuff the pumpkin. Use fingers to work stuffing in along the sides. Stuff firmly (but not so tight you can't poke your finger down into the middle to make a place for the stem). Then gather and fasten the top, leaving just enough room to insert stem.

Next, thread the dollmaker's needle or other long, sharp needle with embroidery floss, using a length of about 40" - 60" or so, depending on the size of the pumpkin. Knot one end of the length. Push needle down through center of pumpkin, through stuffing and out bottom, catching a bit of fabric at bottom, and push needle back through and out top opening. Pull to be sure it is securely attached.

Now begin wrapping sections of pumpkin. With thread coming out top, wrap it around to bottom and push needle up through center of pumpkin. Pull snugly, and wrap thread again on opposite side of pumpkin. Continue coming up through pumpkin and wrapping several more places, as you wish, or until you run out of thread. About six sections is enough. Fasten off securely.

Break or saw off a 2"-3" piece of cinnamon stick or wood. If end is rough, smooth it with sandpaper or an emery board. (A cork makes a good stem for a bigger pumpkin.) Cut a small leaf shape from felt, if desired, including a bit of "stem" to poke down inside. To make a tendril, wrap a short piece of florist's wire with green yarn, and twist it around a pencil into a spiral; or use a piece of green chenille stem. Arrange stem, leaf and tendril in center of pumpkin, concealing ends inside. Carefully add a little tacky glue all around to hold them in place, or use glue gun if preferred. That's it! Now, don't you want to make another one?

